

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0285

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 5578

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SNAR, LI

SUBJECT: GOL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN CONTROLLING TRAFFIC IN
DANGEROUS DRUGS

REFS: (A) STATE 188687 (B) MONROVIA 5340

1. THE REJECTION (REFTEL A) OF THE GOL REQUEEST FOR HELP
IN CONTROLLING DRUG TRAFFIC PLACES US IN A DIFFICULT
POSITION. BEFORE THIS REJECTION IS CONVEYED TO THE GOL,
THE EMBASSY WISHES TO REVIEW THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH
PROMPTED THE REQUEST AND TO RECOMMEND RECONSIDERATION.

2. ACCORDING TO GOL COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND
EXCISE HENRIETTA KOENIG, SHE MET MR. DICKERSON, U.S.
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR CUSTOMS, AT THE RECENT MEETING
OF THE CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS, AND
DISCUSSED WITH HIM THE PROBLEMS THE GOL FACES IN DTECTING
THE FLOW OF DANGEROUS DRUGS. MRS. KOENIG HAS INFOMED THE
EMBASSY THAT MR. DICKERSON THEN TOLD HERE THAT, WITH A
FOR MAL REQUEST FROM THE GOL, ARRANGEMENTS CULD BE
WORKED OUT FOR DRUG EXPERTS TO BE SENT TO LIBERIA TO STUDY
THE SITUATION. SHE SAID THAT MENTION WAS MADE ALSO
OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT A U.S. TEAM COULD BE SENT TO TRAIN
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GOL CUSTOMS OFFICERS LOCALLY. ACCORDINGLY, THE
GOL MINISTRY OF FINANCE REQUESTED THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO PREPARE A DIPLOMATIC NOTE, WHICH WAS
TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY REFTEL B.

3. IF THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN MRS. KOENIG AND MR.
DICKERSON WAS AS REPRESENTED, WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT

THE U.S. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS WAS NOT AWARE
THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE
TO THE GOL AND THAT WE SHOULD SO INFORM MRS. KOENIG.

4. WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT AS A GESTURE
OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE GOL A U.S. DRUG
CONTROL EXPERT SPEND ONE WEEK IN LIBERIA TO WORK WITH
MRS. KOENIG ON THIS PROBLEM AND TO PROVIDE ADVICE. WE
ARE DEPENDENT UPON COOPERATION FROM MRS. KOENIG IN A
NUMBER OF CUSTOMS-RELATED MATTERS, AND BELIEVE THAT SUCH
A MOVE WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY HER. WE WOULD
ADD THAT ONE REASON LITTLE ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO THE
EXTENT OF THE HARD DRUG PROBLEM HERE IS THAT NO ONE IN
GOL CUSTOMS CAN DISTINGUISH AMONG CANNABIS,
CANNABIS DERIVATIVES, AND THE VARIOUS FORMS OF
OPIUM-RELATED DRUGS. THE GOL WOULD WELCOME HELP IN
SOMETHING AS BASIC AS DRUG IDENTIFICATION, AS WELL AS
IN TECHNIQUES OF CONTROL.
CARTER

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